

CHICAGO TRIBUNE

MAY 7 1964

STATINTL

Chicago Tribune

FOUNDED JUNE 10, 1847

J. HOWARD WOOD, Publisher
W. D. MAXWELL, Editor

McSVENSSONISM

All free bleeders who deplore the existence of the House committee on un-American activities and still shudder at the "excesses" of the late Sen. Joseph R. McCarthy will be disturbed at a similar witch hunt now taking place in Sweden.

There the reputation of a retired Swedish air force colonel, Stig Wennerstrom, has been entirely destroyed by the report of a parliamentary commission, which for clarity may be termed the committee on un-Swedish activities.

Col. Wennerstrom is charged with selling Swedish defense secrets to the Russians for 15 years. For good measure, he also sold American and NATO military secrets, to which he had easy access as Swedish air attache in Washington from 1952 to 1957.

It is further asserted that Col. Wennerstrom allowed about \$100,000 in back pay from the Russians to accumulate in Moscow, which he intended to collect upon fleeing Sweden. He intended to apply for soviet citizenship and to take his rank in Russia as a soviet major general after absconding. He stayed around one day too long for the first communion of a daughter and was nabbed.

It is estimated that it will cost the Swedish government 56 million dollars to repair the damage to its defense planning occasioned by Wennerstrom's betrayal.

We are sure that all true-blue [or true-Red] "liberals" will wish to take up the defense of Col. Wennerstrom, who has suffered slanders not even visited on Alger Hiss, Harry Dexter White, or Owen Lattimore. The fact that Wennerstrom has confessed need not bother this cabal unduly. The main point they will wish to keep in mind is that nobody's reputation need have suffered if the iniquitous committee on un-Swedish activities had not persisted in getting the goods on Col. Wennerstrom.